

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PEKING 00730 171202Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 /073 W
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R 170833Z MAR 78
FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 159
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 0730

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CH UR US

SUBJ: "PERSONAL LETTER" FROM LIN PAIO TO CHOU EN-LAI

1. AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE CORRESPONDENT GEORGES BIANNIC HAS GIVEN USLO COPY OF A LETTER WHICH HE FOUND IN A BUREAU LETTER BOX MARCH 15. SAME LETTER WAS RECEIVED BY SEVERAL OTHER CORRESPONDENTS NEXT DAY. BECAUSE IT DID NOT ARRIVE AT TIME OF REGULAR MAIL DELIVERY AND BECAUSE CANCELLATION HAS A RATHER SMUDGED, BOGUS LOOK TO IT, BIANNIC SUSPECTS THAT LETTER DID NOT GO THROUGH REGULAR PEKING MAIL SYSTEM. BECAUSE OF PECULAIR CONTENTS HE AND OTHERS THINK THAT IT IS CRUDE PIECE OF SOVIET BLACK PROPAGANDA.

2. ENVELOPE FROM "D. ROWLEY" CONTAINED XEROX COPY OF A PURPORTED FEBRUARY 17, 1971 LETTER FROM LIN PIAO TO CHOU EN-LAI. LIN BEGINS SIX PAGE MISSIVE WITH WARNING TO "EN-LAI" THAT BOTH ARE IN TROUBLE BECAUSE OF CHAIRMAN MAO'S PATHOLOGICAL SUSPICIONS. MAO IS THE ROOT OF CHINA'S PROBLEMS. "YESTERDAY THE CHAIRMAN WAS AGAINST THE PARTY, TODAY HE OPPOSES THE ARMY .. WHO CAN SAY WHAT HE WILL BE AGAINST TOMORROW?" MAO'S THEORIES OF GOVERNING
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THE NATION ARE ILL CONCEIVED. "DEVELOPING INDUSTRY AND NEGLECTING AGRICULTURE? HOW DOES HE EXPECT THE WORKERS TO EAT?"

3. LIN LAMENTS THAT NONE OF THOSE WHO SUPPORTED MAO IN THE OLD DAYS HAVE AVOIDED TROUBLE. KAO KANG COMMITTED SUICIDE AND LIU SHAO-CHI IN PAYMENT FOR HIS LOYALTY WAS

STRUGGLED AGAINST SEVERAL TIMES. LIN TELLS CHOU HOW CONCERNED HE IS, NOT ONLY FOR HIS OWN POSITION, BUT ALSO FOR CHOU'S.

4. THEN COME THE PUNCH LINES. "MOST RECENTLY THE CHAIRMAN HAS BEEN ADVOCATING THAT CHINA SHOULD UNITE WITH THE UNITED STATES TO OPPOSE THE SOVIET UNION." LIN COMPLAINS THAT CHINA REALLY DOESN'T HAVE MUCH OF A QUARRELL WITH THE SOVIETS WHO WILL NEVER JOIN WITH THE AMERICANS TO PUT PRESSURE ON THE PRC. "ALTHOUGH I HAVE SAID IN THE PAST THAT WE FACE TWO ENEMIES, OUR CHIEF ENEMY HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE AMERICAN IMPERIALISTS." ..THE SOVIET REVISIONISTS ARE REALLY FRIENDS OF OUR NATION." LIN THEN NOTES THAT CHOU SHOULD UNDERSTAND THIS BETTER THAN ANY ONE SINCE HE WAS ONE OF THE AUTHORS OF THE SINO-SOVIET TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP AND MUTUAL ASSISTANCE. CHOU MUST REMEMBER, ACCORDING TO LIN, THAT THE CHAIRMAN HAD SAID, "IF WE ASK THE AMERICANS TO PROTECT US WE SHALL SIMPLY BECOME AN AMERICAN COLONY."

5. NONE OF THE RESIDENT CORRESPONDENTS APPEAR INTERESTED IN REPORTING THE ABOVE. IT IS DIFFICULT TO SAY WHO WOULD GAIN IF THEY DID.

6. ORIGINAL CHINESE TEXT FOLDED TO DEPARTMENT.
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